

Town Meeting

BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

Broadcast by Stations of the American Broadcasting Co.



OFF.

Can Youth Have Faith in the Future?

Moderator, **GEORGE V. DENNY, Jr.**

Speakers

LETSEY BARTON
BETTY BETZ

JACKIE ROBINSON
HAROLD RUSSELL

(See also page 12)

COMING

—January 10, 1950—

**Could the Federal Anti-Margarine Laws
Be Abolished?**

—January 17, 1950—

**What the Kremlin's Aim the Conquest of the
U. S. A.?**

ed by **THE TOWN HALL, Inc., New York 18, N. Y.**

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 35  **\$4.50 A YEAR: 10c A COPY**



CONTENTS



The account of the meeting reported in this Bulletin was transcribed from recordings made of the actual broadcast and represents the exact content of the meeting as nearly as such mechanism permits. The publishers and printer are not responsible for the statements of the speakers or the points of view presented.



THE BROADCAST OF DECEMBER 27:

"Can Youth Have Faith in the Future?"

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Mr. DENNY..... | 3 |
| Mr. RUSSELL..... | 3 |
| Miss BETZ..... | 5 |
| Mr. ROBINSON..... | 7 |
| Miss BARTON..... | 9 |
| THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN..... | 12 |
| QUESTIONS, PLEASE!..... | 14 |



THE BROADCAST OF JANUARY 3:

"Television 1950 — Good or Bad?"



THE BROADCAST OF JANUARY 10:

"Should the Federal Anti-Margarine Laws Be Abolished?"



The Broadcast of December 27, 1949, over the American Broadcasting Company Network from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. EST, originated in Town Hall, New York City.



Town Meeting is published by The Town Hall, Inc., Town Meeting Publication Office: 400 S. Front St., Columbus 15, Ohio. **Send subscriptions and single copy orders to Town Hall, New York 18, N. Y.** Subscription price, \$4.50 a year. 10c a copy. Entered as second-class matter, May 9, 1942, at the Post Office at Columbus, Ohio, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Town Meeting

BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

GEORGE V. DENNY, JR., MODERATOR



SEPTEMBER 27, 1949

VOL. 15, No. 35

Can Youth Have Faith in the Future?

Moderator Denny:

Good evening, neighbors. I trust you parents and grandparents are sitting comfortably in your chairs, for you may not be able to take what you are about to hear standing up. We've asked four outstanding representatives of the rising generation to speak on the question: "Can Youth Have Faith in the Future?" Naturally they are basing their views on the world you and I have made for them.

Well, my friends, and see if you think you've done all you can do to make this a world in which youth can have faith in the future.

We are on the verge of a new, momentous year in which we, American people, have a greater responsibility for the future of the rest of the world than any generation of Americans. Listen to the counsel of Harold Russell, ex-butcher boy, ex-paratrooper, ex-movie star, winner of two cherished Academy Awards for his performance in "The Best Years of Our Lives," whose autobiography, *Victory in My Hands*, is still a best-seller, and who is now National Commander of AMVETS. Town Hall is pleased to present the authentic Mr. Veteran of 1949, Mr. Harold Russell. (Applause)

Russell:

On the subject tonight, "Can Youth Have Faith in the Future?" I was told by a youngster who had been called on at school to speak of his progress in the next decade. The teacher mentioned the changes that might be expected. The young boy looked at me in a very calculating manner and said, "Well, why worry about those changes because you'll probably be dead then?"

Whether this lack of faith in the future is merely wis- thinking I don't know, but it's not difficult to conceive that m- a thoughtful and thinking youngster of today, exposed to headlines and the radio bulletins of our time with their overto- of atomic doom, may conclude the game is hardly worth the can-

We'll all be dead, anyway—at least a good part of the civiliza- we know. For our youth today is growing up in a climate of fe- fear of Russia, fear of the bomb, fear of depression, fear of little security and fear of too much of it.

The din is constant and slightly terrifying—not enough hous- not enough jobs, not enough soil, not enough food. Why, her- New York right now we don't even have enough water. Som- the experts are even scaring the girls with evidence to prove th- won't be enough boys to go around. (*Laughter*)

This sapping of our collective confidences in our future- ourselves, while justifiable in part, is further compounded- the country's emphasis on materialism. The movies and adverti- are prime offenders here. Cars have become more important t- churches, sex becomes more important than love, sensationa- has become more urgent than truth, and everywhere money- more money is the mark of success. In some areas, it's virtu- a crime to talk about God in our public schools. (*Applause*)

Despite all of these evils, I'm convinced that most of our con- generation is facing the future eagerly, with confidence, moral strength. If delinquency has increased, so has chu- attendance. Don't forget that the techniques of recording cri- are more efficient and hence show greater totals.

Youth, particularly the young veterans, are beginning to as- their leadership in very practical ways. Right now, for exam- there are more than 200 World War II veterans in Congress, more legislators in their 30's and 20's than we have seen- generations.

Not very long ago Congressman Jack Kennedy was stoppe- one of our elder statesmen who thought he was a page boy- who asked him to deliver some papers that he had on his per-

Right now too many older folks overlook the fact that- superficial fears spring from an adult world—fears caused- spread by adults. They have forgotten the enthusiasm and- optimism of youth, and that wondrous period when no batt- so bewitched that it cannot be won in the last sixty seconds- long forward pass.

Optimism is the priceless heritage of youth and the consta- renewing hope in the world. To deny that youth can face- the bleakest future without hope is to deny the whole histor-

anity. If I sound like Pollyanna, let it stand. Our ills come from the mistakes, the cynicism, and the disillusionment of grown-ups. They are overcome and solved by the faith of our children, all who are young in heart.

Of course, individual kids lose faith and go wrong, but the fault usually lies in weak home guidance, poor education, or early failures of moral teachings. These are the basic areas that we must strengthen and repair.

We can be shocked, Mr. Denny, by the high rate of juvenile delinquency, but let's also remember such things as the annual Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which this year alone attracted more than 250 high school kids. I remember one sentence from a prize-winning essay by a 17-year old American: "In a democracy," he wrote, "one man's defects are canceled by another man's virtues, while dictatorship magnifies one man's faults a million times over."

That's the voice of youth—a thousand and one of whom arise each year to cancel out the thousand prophets of doom. (Applause)

Operator Denny:

Thank you, Harold Russell. Thank you, very much. You somewhat remind me of the story of the centenarian—100-year-old, Mr. Russell—who was being interviewed on a porch in Maine by some newspaper correspondents from New York. He was approached by a young man as he sat there in his chair with his feet between his knees. The young man said, "Well, sir, I guess you've seen a great many changes in your lifetime."

"Yes," he said, "and I been agin all of 'em." (*Laughter and applause*)

Now this is the night we should be on television. You listeners who are not here in Town Hall will have to take my word for it. You listen to Betty Betz, author of the syndicated King Features column, "Betty Betz Bets," that she's a very beautiful young woman aptly described by her associates as a "young dynamo." In addition to her column, Betty does a page for her Sunday supplement, "Pictorial Review," and has written four best-sellers—the latest being *Betty Betz's Career Book*. An untiring traveler, she's just returned from a trip around the world, which has given her a new slant on tonight's question: "Can Youth Have Faith in the Future?" Can they, Betty Betz? (*Applause*)

Betz:

I do believe the youth have faith in the future, and I do have faith in our American teen-agers. I recently returned from

a six-months' flying trip around the globe to find out the problems of our world youth. I played with kids in the muddy alleys of Shanghai. I visited a girls' slave labor camp amidst the rubble and ruin of Warsaw, Poland. As the guest of an Indian family I slept in the same room with six children, four pigs, and a flock of chickens. (*Laughter*)

Outside the U. S. A., kids are getting a pretty rough deal; they are suffering for the mistakes of their parents. But in all the 22 countries I visited, I heard no complaints of the young people, who hopefully look forward to the day when they will have schools, nice clothing, and cowboy movies, just like Americans.

On the other hand, the grownups in these countries seem bitter, dissatisfied, and discouraged to put forth any effort toward bettering their unfortunate and tragic conditions.

In our own country, opportunities are unlimited for young people, and the average standard of living is better than that of an average Maharajah. The reason for this is probably because our parents and grandparents did the work double time to build up American commerce and industry. And perhaps that's the reason why so much emphasis is put on success and material gain, that some people are confused by it all, and they're often afraid to enter a chosen field unless it will prove to be a lucrative one.

Many young people put off marriage because of this economic insecurity, whereas our parents and grandparents thought of their own immediate happiness first and the doctor bills later.

Our lives today are so rushed and complicated that many parents have little time left to spend with their children and their problems. Young people turn out to be better individuals if they are given love and protection and guidance from their parents. But if Dad is too tired and Mom's too busy, fortunately we do have teachers, youth leaders, and members of the church to whom a child may go for help and advice. Also the many school activities take up a child's spare time and encourage his talents.

All American kids are healthy, and I think Jackie Robinson will agree with me that our national sports program is the best in the world. Our schools are good, but they could be better, and I do think teachers should be paid more. If only everyone of our listeners could have seen the scrawny bodies of the undernourished kids of Greece, and the filthy rags worn by the children in China, you'd thank the Lord just for the privilege of living on American soil, for America is the only country where any youngster can start out selling newspapers and eventually wind up being a big president.

Young Americans are sincere, honest, idealistic, generous, and
-natured. If parents and teachers encourage these fine
characteristics, they usually turn into pretty solid citizens. How-
ever, young people today do feel a sense of unrest and insecurity
and need continual counsel from an adult to emphasize the im-
portance of spiritual and human values.

They all want to be happy, but sometimes they're not quite
clear about the meaning of the word. As a result of glamorized
movies, books, and magazines, their expectations in life are highly
inflated, whereas, if they slowed down a bit and thought things
carefully, they'd realize that true happiness doesn't come from
getting but from giving.

I admire the job young people are doing today. They're even
meeting the challenge of making a peaceful world, and I'm sure
if we all stopped having birthdays after we reached the age
of 21, the world would be a much better place.

There's nothing wrong with the young people today, but it's
adults with prejudice and hatred in their hearts who need
a good lecture. (Applause)

Speaker Denny:

Youth we have all kinds of heroes, from policemen to presi-
dents, but none more popular than the hero of the baseball
diamond. Jackie Robinson, star second-baseman of the Brooklyn
Dodgers, knows what it means to play this role, for he began
playing softball on the corner lot with the gang, and found that
he could outrun them all.

At Muir Technical High School in Pasadena, California, Jackie
played football, basketball, and ran on the track team. In Pasadena
State College, he broke his brother Mac's broad jump record by
jumping 25 feet, 6½ inches. When he entered the University of
California, he was an outstanding player on the football team,
a college star, and a campus hero.

Jackie Robinson's brilliant record in the Army and in profes-
sional baseball is too well known for accounting here. What is
known is the great work he has done and is still doing at
Harlem Y.M.C.A., where he puts in full time working with
youngsters in that area, when he is not actually practicing
his profession. Jackie, can youth have faith in the future?
(Pause)

Robinson:

Yes, Mr. Denny, that question can be answered by the leaders
of youth. If we advise and guide youth correctly, then they have
a wonderful opportunity, but if the barriers that prevent certain

peoples from pursuing the goals of their choosing are allowed stand unassailed, then the opportunities for today's youth greatly lessened.

There has been so much talk about juvenile delinquency its causes that it's amazing just how little is being done. For some time, my thoughts have been on this problem, and, in my way, I am trying to do something about it. Remember, a child is not a delinquent until he is made one by his parents or community. (Applause)

A check of most delinquent children probably will show they have either come from broken homes or from one that is a large family living in crowded quarters. It is hard to place blame on the mother, who has to leave her children and go to work to provide food and clothing, but nevertheless the blame must be placed there unless she has seen to it that her child or children have found some center, club, or Y.M.C.A., to take up his leisure time.

When a child has time on his hands, he is subject to all sorts of temptations, and it is that child, though he is not basically bad, that usually gets into difficulties. It is too bad that there are not enough organizations to encourage mothers to persuade or see to it that their children join some club or organization that has someone to supervise their play and activity. I know from personal experiences that some children living under crowded conditions are subject to all types of temptations. Some rebel against the conditions, and seek relief away from home.

In some cases, the parents are not interested enough to know the whereabouts of these children. These kids sometimes run away from the cunning boy who has all sorts of wild ideas, and before long he has interested them in some mischief.

That is where the community could come in. In many communities nice places are provided for the children, but what about the children from poor families whose parents cannot afford a club or playground that is supervised? There should be some kind of center, Y, or organization in every community, so that every child has a chance. We know we cannot reach them all, but if facilities are there, perhaps ways can be found to induce the child to come around.

The community should see to it that enough recreation is provided to keep the minds of its children occupied. In so doing there is no doubt in my mind that juvenile delinquency will be cut to the minimum.

During my past two years at the Harlem Y, I have found it is a lot of good to have people around that interest the kids. I

ly believe that if more people that children look up to as
ers would take more interest and would be willing to donate
e and money to organizations that are working for children,
ould encourage the youngsters to join these organizations.
as helped in Harlem, and I am sure it would help in other areas.
s summing up what I have said, it all boils down to the failures
(1) the home—either by the fact that it is a broken home, or
parents are not interested in their children enough to find out
t they are doing—and (2) the community is not interested
gh to see that adequate facilities are provided to reach the
ss of all the children—not the select few.

e have to give every child the opportunity to develop as he
ppable of doing, regardless of race, creed, or color. On that,
g great extent, depends the future security of our country.
r American democracy stands as a sheltering rock amid the
ng sands of world's failures wrought by intolerance and
ry. We can show the way only if we, ourselves, demonstrate
tangible deeds and not only with lofty ideology. In brother-
tolerance, and justice to all men lies tomorrow's chance for
r's youth. (Applause)

erator Denny:

ank you, Jackie Robinson. There are a lot of Dodger fans
ere as well as in the audience listening. I think we ought
rt a class or short course here in Town Hall, Jackie, for
em parents, and engage you four to start giving the courses.
ause) I am sure it would have great registration.

- last speaker is a native New Yorker and has lived here
of her life. I wish that we could say that she is a typical
Yorker, but she is typical of the best and the bravest that
York and America has produced. She started writing at an
age and sold her first article to *St. Nicholas Magazine* when
as eighteen. She's written for other leading magazines. While
ved in Washington, she did a column for *The Washington*
n. She's written three books, including a forthcoming novel,
How of the Bridge, to be published on March 15. Betsey Barton,
your opinion of this question, "Can Youth Have Faith in
uture?" (Applause)

ty Barton:

Denny, I've played kind of a mean trick on you. All day,
enny has been carrying around a mussed-up little cartoon.
picture of a speaker on a platform and somebody's rising
the audience, asking this question, "Just how are we going

to have this brave new world with all the same old people in it
(Laughter)

I'm afraid that's the subject of my talk.

I feel a little bit more confused than the other three speakers about the degree of faith that we young people have in the future because I don't think we do have it to a very great degree. A friend of mine recently said to me, "I want to believe in the future, but every time I think about it, I get into a panic, so I live from day to day."

This is what most young people secretly think. We want to have faith in the future, and most of the time we can act as if we do. We want to have hope, yet we don't dare. We feel alone and afraid when we think of the future. We feel isolated and powerless.

If we are fairly mature, we go out and buy a copy of *Peace of Mind*, or join a union, or take a course in social psychology. If we are less mature, we go to sleep or take more drastic escapes.

"It doesn't matter; I'm not important; I'm not anything, really. Anyway I can't do anything about it. I've got enough on my mind. I do the best I can." So goes the inner voice, chanting its dangerous litany of cynicism and helplessness.

That voice lives in all of us. Sometimes it's soft, sometimes it's loud. But it's there with increasing frequency, and it states what I believe to be the basic issue of our time—our increasing loss of faith in ourselves. The influences around us are aggravating this. The individual is persistently devalued. Our culture perpetuates itself, not the uniqueness of each person. It preaches distrust of those who are different or original, or who depart from established standards of success.

An education doesn't bring us back to ourselves as the starting point. It builds conformity, rather than character. It teaches facts, not values; how to be informed, not how to be. It says that reality consists of current events.

In our terror over the international situation and our growing reliance on collective action, we are beginning to look for fulfillment and meaning in institutions, in government and social benefits, at every point except where these can truly be found within ourselves.

"It doesn't matter, I'm not important, anyway. I can't do anything about it." This kind of thinking easily leads to surrender of personal responsibility: "Let them worry about it. They have the answers. Let them do it for me. Let them take care of me."

So, Mr. Denny, I believe that our indifference to ourselves and to others, our inability to care enough about ourselves and others creatively, lovingly, is the central moral problem of today.

if we love ourselves, can we grow in self-knowledge, can we discover who we really are.

Only if we love ourselves, first, can we love others, and only if we love others, can we relate ourselves, without fear and without a sense of helplessness, to our tasks as free people, to all of us, and to the world.

The crisis is upon us, then, with its great challenge, its tremendous choice. The issues are deep; the stakes are high. We must try.

Yet in our hurry, let us remember that we are not alone.

We are not dependent on only ourselves. There is real help in another aspect of our culture, founded on the teachings of a Man whose birthday we have just celebrated—a Man who knew all we are is to know about us—our hopes, our failings, our fears, our despair. He knew them because He had felt them in Himself. “I am with you. I am with you,” He said.

He left us some instructions, a few stories, some warnings, and asked of us finally that we seek salvation not in culture or in science, or in subjection to leaders, but in a harder way—the best way of all: “Another commandment I give unto you,” He said, “that ye love one another, and as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

A man's destiny lies in his character—the kind of person he is. Then doesn't the destiny of this Nation lie in our character—our kind of people we are? If we young people believe this Man—the Man of Galilee—we would understand that the measure of our faith in the future is our love of one another and of ourselves. (pause)

Facilitator Denny:

Thank you, Betsey Barton. Now there doesn't seem to be too much difference of opinion among our speakers tonight, although we approached this problem from four different points of view. We'd best swing right into our question period after a special announcement to our listeners.

Announcer: As we go into our question period tonight, I'm sure many of you have questions in your mind that you'd like to ask these speakers if you were here in Town Hall. In preparation for our program next week, when Al Capp and Norman Cousins will discuss the question, “Television 1950—Good or Bad?” We invite you to send in your questions on this highly controversial subject. Please be sure to limit your question to 25 words and address it to the Facilitator, Town Hall, New York 18, New York, and mail it as

THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN

HAROLD RUSSELL — Mr. Russell, recently elected National Commander of the American Veterans of World War II, received two Oscars for his role in the 1946 motion picture, "The Best Years of Our Lives." In 1944, he was a sergeant with the 13th Airborne Division, stationed at Camp Mackall, N. C., when a half pound of TNT exploded in his hands. With both hands amputated, he spent a long period in Walter Reed Hospital where he learned to use a bilateral prosthetic device as hands.

Discharged from the Army in 1945, Mr. Russell enrolled under the GI Bill at the School of Business Administration of Boston University. He was given a part in a Signal Corps documentary film, "Diary of a Sergeant," in which he played the leading role of an amputee who overcame the handicap of losing both hands. His success at this part led to another in "The Best Years of Our Lives," in which he won an award for "the best supporting actor" and a special award.

Mr. Russell returned to Boston University and has recently had published a book entitled *Victory in My Hands*, in which he describes his philosophy for tolerance. In March, 1949, he received an award from the National Amputation Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans for his work in bettering human relationships and his inspiration to handicapped veterans.

Mr. Russell was born in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, in 1914. At the age of seven he moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts. Starting to work at the age of ten, he had jobs as a newsboy, butcher assistant, Y. M. C. A. camp counselor, and manager of a supermarket—all before he finished high school.

JACK ROOSEVELT ROBINSON — Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia, in January, 1919, and was taken to Pasadena, California, at the age of one year. He started his athletic career at Muir Technical High School and continued it at Pasadena Junior

College where he gained a reputation as a baseball, football, and basketball player and as a broad jumper.

In 1940, he received several American nominations while playing for U. C. L. A., and in 1942 played the All-Star game at Soldiers' Field, Chicago. Later he went to Honolulu to play in another All-Star contest. Upon his return he played several professional football games in the Pacific Coast League.

Mr. Robinson entered the U. S. Army in 1942 as a private, attended Officer Training School and was commissioned second lieutenant in November, 1943. In 1945, he received inactive status. The same year he was signed by the Montreal Royals baseball team, the first Negro player to be taken into the ranks of organized baseball.

Now second baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers, he received the National League's Award as the Most Valuable Player for 1949.

BETSEY ALICE BARTON — Five years ago, at the age of 26, Betsey Barton published her first book, *And Now Live Again*, which told of her long fight against paralysis. At the age of 16, an automobile accident left her with a broken back and paralyzed legs.

Since her first book, she has written a novel, *The Long Walk*, and many magazine articles. A new novel, *Shadow of the Bridge*, is scheduled for March release.

In 1948, Miss Barton was awarded an honorary degree of Master of Letters by New York University. Miss Barton is the daughter of Bruce Barton, advertising executive and former Congressman.

BETTY BETZ — Teen-age columnist "The Teen Set," syndicated by King Features, is author of *The Betty Barton Career Book* and *Your Manners Are Showing*. A recent article in *Collier's* relates her experiences on a tour around the world to learn of young people in other lands.

soon as possible. We will use as many of your questions as we can during next week's question period.

If you would like a copy of tonight's program, complete with questions and answers to follow, enclose 10 cents for the Town Meeting Bulletin. Please do not send stamps. If you would like to receive Town Meeting Bulletin for an entire year, send \$4.50. Remember, the address is Town Hall, New York 18, New York. If you should include a question for next week's program, address it to the Moderator, Town Hall, New York 18, New York.

Next week, your Town Meeting will begin a half-hour later at most of these stations—at 9:00 o'clock, Eastern Standard Time; 10 o'clock, Central Time; and by transcription at 9:00 o'clock, Mountain Time; and 9:00 o'clock, Pacific Coast Time.

Mr. Denny will tell you more about our plans for next week at the end of this program. But please remember the new time, and tell your friends about this change beginning next week, January 3.

If you would like to attend the broadcast, address your request for tickets to Town Meeting Ticket Department, Town Hall, New York 18, New York. Now I see our Town Hall audience is ready for questions, and so for our Question Period, we return you to Mr. Denny.

QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

Mr. Denny: Now, we're going to begin our question period tonight with a distinguished guest up there in the balcony who appeared on this program about a month ago — young Philip Willkie, who breaks into print in *Collier's* magazine Saturday this week. Mr. Willkie, have you a question or a comment you could make at this time?

Mr. Willkie: Well, Mr. Denny, I don't believe that I have a question. I do have a comment. I don't think youth has anything to fear in America today, and I don't think they fear anything. I don't believe that things were ever so good for youth as they are in this country today.

A half century ago, two-thirds of our people lived in rural areas. They were practically isolated from the main stream of life. Today, the highway, the automobile, radio, television, electric consolidated schools have meant that young people, who formerly were limited in their outlooks, have all the opportunities that anyone has in this town. Things are better in this town.

We have more and better schools. Forty years ago this coming February when my father entered Indiana University, there were 1,400 students. Today, there are 16,000. It's a twelve-fold increase while the population of the state has increased 30 per cent.

There never were so many jobs for young people, and the jobs never paid so well. I think youth has everything to look forward to and I think youth has nothing to be afraid of, and I don't think that it is. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: All right, thank you, Philip Willkie. Would any of our speakers like to comment on that? If not, we'll go right into the question period and take a question from the gentleman over there on the aisle.

Man: My question is addressed to Mr. Russell, and it's on the topic of education. With educational opportunities being widely spread for the returned GI's, how can the next non-GI generation with no government subsidy for education hope to qualify for employment which demands the same educational background?

Mr. Denny: You're optimistic that there won't be any GI's in the next generation. All right, Mr. Russell.

Mr. Russell: I think a very small percentage of the average GI has taken advantage of the GI Bill of Rights. I think it was less than actually one per cent of the 15 million men or women who returned from service who took advantage of the GI Bill of Rights in order to go back and complete or further their education. Today, I think we are looking forward to—as Mr. Willkie said—

new spirit of optimism among our young people, new advantages we never had before. I believe that our schools will bring this to them. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Russell. The next question over on the other side of the house.

Mr. Barton: My question is addressed to Jackie Robinson. Since the Federal Government of America has little or no control over the political or economic life, how can they effect this fine program they have presented here this evening?

Mr. Denny: Mr. Robinson? If youth don't have the control, how can they put into effect this fine program that you have suggested this evening? I believe that you suggested that the adults undertake the program, though, didn't you?

Mr. Robinson: Well, Mr. Denny, it's a pretty tough question for me as I'm concerned, but I still say that the parents and the kids have got to get closer together. Now, there are a lot of delinquents—I hate the word delinquent, as I said a little while ago—but they've got to get closer together. In many cases, the parents are so far away from the kid, or the kid so far away from the parents that it can be awfully tough for them to get this problem straightened out. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: All right. Thank you. The next question over on the other side.

Mr. Barton: Miss Barton. The name is Maine.

Mr. Denny: The famous Mr. Martin Maine. All right, Mr. Maine. Proceed.

Mr. Barton: Wouldn't permanent world peace and economic security provide a tangible basis for having faith in the future?

Mr. Denny: Very definitely.

Mr. Barton: That's like asking if you believe in Santa Claus, ice cream, and good will from heaven. (Laughter) The young lady is right.

Mr. Denny: I'd like to address my question to Miss Betz. Does youth have the facilities to improve the world in order to have faith in the future?

Miss Betz: Well, I think that they do have the facilities, because schools are getting better, and they're having forums for people such as we're having here right now. I think they give the young people a chance to get up and speak their minds, and that makes some people take a bigger and much better interest in what's going on in the world. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The gentleman in the balcony there.

Mr. Barton: This is addressed to Mr. Russell. Faith without intelligent

and informed planning will not insure the future. What is your doing to plan that future?

Mr. Russell: Maybe I can answer the question this way. You or anybody else is not going to have anything handed to them on a golden platter. Youth has got to make itself heard. Youth has got to assume the responsibilities that we all must assume as citizens of this Nation. If youth or any other group expects anything is going to be given to them, I'm afraid they're going to be very much mistaken. (*Applause*)

Man: My question is directed to Mr. Robinson. Do you think that a Negro youth without physical prowess or the ability to entertain can really have much faith in his or her future?

Mr. Robinson: I certainly do. Yes, I certainly do. The opportunities today are so great or so much greater than they have been for all kids. The peoples of the United States are falling in line and are doing the things that we look up to. I certainly think so. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Jackie, wasn't there a report in the paper this morning about the Urban League reporting on the advancement of economic opportunities for Negroes all over the United States in the past 25 years as a result of a survey that the Urban League made?

Mr. Robinson: Yes, the Urban League has had a survey made on that, and, if we could get that report, it certainly shows the advances that have been made. It is really wonderful, and I certainly believe that it's the responsibility of not only the Negro but also of all the other races to not pity us but give us an opportunity, and we'll do our part. (*Applause*)

Lady: Miss Barton, you say that the future of American youth is dim. What then is the future of European youth?

Mr. Denny: You say the future of American youth is dim. What about the future of European youth? Maybe you'd better ask Miss Betz that question. She's just been there. All right, Miss Barton.

Miss Barton: Well, I know that we can't compare the degree of opportunity we have to the European youth. I just hope that we appreciate what we've got and hang on to it. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Miss Betz, would you like to comment on that question? What do you think about the future of European youth?

Miss Betz: All the young people I met, not only in Europe, but all over the world, look forward to help from America. It's the dream of every young person to come some day to this country and live. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: That's just what we found, too, Miss Betz.

Man: In view of the mess today's world is in, do I, as one of today's youth, have the right to be cynical about my future?

Mr. Russell: I'm inclined to say "Yes, you have a certain right to be cynical," but also that as a member of a very special group, you're in a very special manner or way to change that situation. In other words, the future is yours; it's in your hands. You can change it if enough people believe in the right way of life and the right way of doing a thing. (*Applause*)

We saw evidence of that last year in the Congress of the United States when a certain group was going to put through a pension bill—the Rankin pension bill. We saw that bill defeated by approximately 200 young members of Congress who got together and fought and beat the bill by one vote—an example of what can be accomplished if the young people of today are of a mind to realize their responsibility and to face the fact that "Okay, the future does look tough, but we can change it." (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The lady here?

Lady: Mr. Robinson, can you give us a specific suggestion as to how people with no incomes living in crowded communities are able to start their own community centers?

Mr. Robinson: Why, that's a problem that has to be worked out. I think, through different service organizations around the country. Young people naturally seek places that they can get out and play. If the parents living in these crowded conditions don't take the means themselves, and if the city won't take an interest, it's awfully tough, but if the parents would organize and come city officials, I am sure that they could persuade them to join in and help. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Next question.

Mr. Denny: Miss Betz, it is well to say that youth can save the world, but how can they be effectively heard in time to prevent another disaster by the adult world? (*Laughter and applause*)

Miss Betz: That's a very tough question, because as we all know, it's not the young people or even the adults who make war, but the selfish warmongers. (*Applause*) All I can say is that if young people would try to influence adults and truly believe in and love their fellow man—if everyone in the world believed that I think we'd some day have a peaceful world. I certainly hope so. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: You mean make that universal, don't you, Miss Betz? Yes. All right, the gentleman on the balcony.

Mr. Denny: Mr. Russell, if this question has any political overtones, I won't be offended if you don't answer it. (*Laughter*) Is the so-

called welfare state that is being talked of so greatly curtail the initiative of our youth and endangering our future?

Mr. Russell: Frankly, I'd like to answer this question, speaking from my own viewpoint, my own personal viewpoint. I think that it's time for the people of the United States to begin to stand on their own two feet and not look for help from anybody. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Does that answer your question, sir? Yes, he's nodding.

Lady: Miss Barton, does not the security of the individual and a potentially mature person make for optimism in knowing he has the means of shaping the future?

Miss Barton: Yes, I should think very definitely. Yes, indeed. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The young man up there in the balcony. We haven't heard from this young contingent yet.

Young Man: I'd like to address Mr. Jackie Robinson. Jackie, how can youth overcome the prejudice problems which face them in America today?

Mr. Denny: Just in one minute, Jackie.

Mr. Robinson: You know, first of all, I think that they've got to find the real problems and not listen so much to what their parents have told them. You know most prejudices stem from the adult. They come down to the kids. (*Applause*) Just as a kid isn't born a delinquent, certainly he is not born with prejudice in his heart. If they can first find out what these problems are and then try to argue or combat the ideas of their parents and have some views of their own and stick to them, perhaps the youth of today can persuade the parents to forget some of the ideas they've built up in themselves for so long. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: What's that song in "South Pacific"—"You have been very carefully taught to hate the people your parents hate," etc.?

Lady: My question is addressed to Miss Betz. What opportunity is European youth being given to educate itself well enough to solve our problems, or must we Americans shoulder the responsibility?

Miss Betz: Well, I really think it's up to the Americans to show the European kids how to live and how to get ahead. It's a very sad state of affairs over there. You know in most parts of the world outside of the United States, an education is really a luxury. I think we kids ought to be very grateful in our country that everyone is entitled to an education, because that is the only way we can combat all these troubles going on in the world. (*Applause*)

Man: I'd like to challenge all four of our speakers this evening.

since I can't, I'll arbitrarily pick Mr. Robinson who's already sitting at the desk.

Mr. Denny: Who says you can't? You can challenge all four of them if you want. Go ahead.

Mr. Barton: Psychoanalysts tell us that children, as a rule, come to accept and to believe in the foibles and prejudices of their parents. They tell us that the only possible means of getting away from this vicious cycle is by separating the children from their parents and bringing them up separately. (*Laughter*) Now what do you think of that suggestion?

Mr. Robinson: If the listeners will pardon this expression, I think it's the bunk. (*Laughter and applause*)

Mr. Denny: Does any other member of this distinguished panel agree with Mr. Robinson? Do you agree, Miss Betz? What about it, Miss Barton?

Miss Barton: I certainly agree.

Mr. Denny: Mr. Russell? Do you agree that it's the bunk? Come on. The young man really wanted to challenge all four of you, and I just want to give him a chance.

Miss Barton: I think that any parents who go to psychologists should have their heads examined. (*Laughter and applause*)

Mr. Denny: All right. The gentleman here on the second row.

Mr. Miss Betz. With so many conflicting ideologies extant, can youth choose intelligently what kind of future to wish for and have faith in?

Miss Betz: Well, I don't think they should worry themselves with all these complicated ideologies. I think the simpler the better, but I think they ought to learn what's right and do what's right. That's always been my code and it's worked out pretty well. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: All right. This young man over here in the corner.

Mr. Russell: Mr. Russell, I'm interested in the sort of education of which so many of you have spoken and have such high faith in. What suggestions do you have for rallying the community and the parents to support our education and thereby design the type of programs that our youth really need and give them something to put their teeth into?

Mr. Russell: I think we've talked a lot tonight about the obligations and responsibilities of youth, and right now we're right in the pattern of living. I think that a long time ago there were Ten Commandments written which make a pretty good pattern of life for anybody. (*Applause*)

But two thousand years ago a great Man said, "Do unto others

as you would that they do unto you," which seems to me to be a very good listening and a good living pattern for any group.

Not so very long ago a group of very important men got together and wrote a Constitution of the United States which is a pattern of life for any Nation to follow. I think if we, as members of a youth group in this country, can maybe think a little about those three rules for living—the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, and the Constitution of the United States—maybe it'll be the kind of pattern that all of us can follow and benefit by. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The gentleman here.

Man: This is directed to Miss Betz. Don't you think that the present generation in this country is doing all that is possible to keep the peace?

Miss Betz: Yes, I think they are. We all want peace and we had to go through the bitter experience of losing brothers and relatives in the last war, and I think that our younger generation today wants peace and will really appreciate it if we have. I think it is going to do everything possible to keep America for democracy. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Up in the balcony there.

Man: My question is addressed to Jackie Robinson. I would like to see a boys' home, Fellowship House. Jackie, what can we do to get real community leaders who love children and can develop a dynamic community spirit?

Mr. Robinson: I think that if they will check in at the organizations that are successful and have them go out and observe these different Y's, centers, and clubs, I think they can see what they are doing, and, then if they have any intelligence at all, they could certainly join right in and help out the youth. I think it's very simple. All they have to do is to show interest in the kids, and the kids will fall right in line. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The lady in the balcony now.

Lady: To Miss Betz. Do you think that the young couple with two children who have been looking for housing for the past several years can have much faith in the future? (Laughter and applause)

Miss Betz: Well, I only wish that you could have been with me when I lived in Calcutta in one room with six children and pigs and chickens. I know it's a very tough situation, but you're not alone. There are a lot of other people going under the same difficulties. I certainly hope you will find an apartment soon. I wish I could help you.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. All real estate men in the audience please take note.

an: My question is for Mr. Russell. Does not the difficulty in discussing God in the public schools arise from the inability of various factions to agree on a non-sectarian God?

Mr. Denny: That's a very important question. Doesn't the difficulty of discussing God in the schools arise from the fact that there is not proper agreement on a non-sectarian God?

Mr. Russell: I think that's true. The difficulty in discussing many of our problems arises from the sharp differences that exist among us and the inability of all of us to look upon the other fellow's point of view of the question and try to realize what his problems are.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The young lady in the balcony.

Young lady: Mr. Robinson. What do you think of the communities that have settlement houses and are segregated not by the color of the skin but by the teen-agers who attend?

Mr. Denny: By whom?

Young lady: Teen-agers that attend the settlement houses.

Mr. Robinson: Well, that's a problem that we're working on now. You probably have run into an example yourself. I think that if you will certainly prove to all of these people that you are as good, as worthy, to belong to this settlement house as they are, these kids will not only welcome you, but they'll only feel a bit ashamed of themselves.

I know of a lot of cases where we've gone to these different settlement houses where these kids have run into the same thing. When we have talked to them, a lot of kids have asked afterward, "What can we do to have other races and creeds come to our settlement houses?" I think that these kids, when they realize what they are doing, will come around. If the kids will only prove that they are worthy to belong to different settlement houses, they will have no trouble in getting in. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The lady over here.

Lady: My question is for Miss Barton. Do you think the recent move in Oregon to teach sex education in high school will aid the future?

Mr. Denny: The recent move in Oregon to do what?

Lady: To teach sex education in the high schools.

Miss Barton: Yes, I think if it's accurate information and if it's well presented—I think that the fewer illusions we have, the better the information we have about everything, the better. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: All right. Thank you very much, Miss Barton.

Now while our speakers prepare their final summaries of tonight's discussion, here's a special message of interest to you.

Announcer: Tonight, Town Hall extends its congratulations to

the world's newest nation, the United States of Indonesia, a nation of some 80 million people comprising an area greater than that of the United States, under the leadership of President Soekarno and Prime Minister Mohammed Hatta. The people of America are deeply interested in the progress and welfare of the Asian people who are embarking on the road to independence and freedom.

It was our privilege to visit five of these countries on our world tour last summer. By coincidence, Dr. Hatta shared our platform with Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, when we were in Pakistan. In the name of our Town Hall audience, we salute Dr. Hatta and his people, and we wish them well, and we hope that on our next tour around the world we may be able to originate a Town Meeting in your country.

Now, we want to ask you to remember to be sure to listen carefully to Mr. Denny's special announcement. It will be heard immediately following the speakers' summaries, which you will hear in just a moment. It will be important news to all Town Meeting listeners. So be sure to hear it.

Now for our summaries, we return you to Mr. Denny.

Mr. Denny: A summary first from Miss Betsey Barton.

Miss Barton: I believe young people are shifting their interest from material progress as the end of all their effort to an inquiry into the real meaning of life. How is it best to live? Why are we working really? What are we working for? How can we really be happy? And the idea that some of these answers may lie in the realm of the spirit.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Betsey Barton. Now Jackie Robinson.

Mr. Robinson: The home and community must work together in cases of broken or over-crowded homes. We should have someone in touch with the family to advise and guide them. If, after advising the parent or parents, they still fail, then the community should have interesting activities that tend to develop good qualities in children. Organizations such as the Young Men and Young Women's Christian Associations, Young Men's Hebrew Associations, Boys Clubs, Settlement Houses, PAL, Scouts, and Community Centers should be supported wholeheartedly by all. (4 plause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Jackie Robinson. Now, Betty Betz.

Miss Betz: Several years ago, I started a club for young people, the Betty Betz Angel Club, and I think now might be an appropriate time to read you the little code on our membership card. "In this war-torn world, I am a young person who feels very fortunate to have a home, family, friends, and good health. I feel

prejudice towards any other race, color, or religion, and I choose friends for what they are, and not for what they have. I shall forth my best efforts to work hard and well, to practice honesty and fair play, and to be kind and generous to all people. I am grateful to my parents, to my teachers, to my fine country, to God. For, without their love and protection, the memories of my growing-up days might not be as pleasant as they are." (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Betty Betz. And now a final word from Harold Russell.

Mr. Russell: I think we're all pretty much in agreement that we can have faith in the future. The problem seems to be to have more faith in ourselves. Now that all the talking's done, the problem seems to boil down to simply this—the spiritual aspect of our lives is the foundation stone of all our futures. Man cannot live by bread alone. Faith in God and practical application of brotherhood by all men—young and old—is the one, the only basis of justifying our faith in the future. (Applause)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Harold Russell, Betty Betz, Jackie Mason, and Betsey Barton, for your frank and forthright statements and answers to tonight's question. They've all been most helpful.

Remember, friends, that copies of tonight's discussion are available in the Town Meeting Bulletin, and may be secured by sending requests to Town Hall, New York 18, New York, for the Town Meeting Bulletin of tonight's broadcast.

In connection with the announcement for our program of next week and for the new year, please remember, first, that Town Meeting will come to you half an hour later—that is 9:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time; 8:00 p.m., Central Time; and by transition at 9:00 p.m., Mountain Time; and 9:00 p.m., Pacific Coast Time.

As most of you know, there are now very few full hour radio programs on the air. Bowing to the progress of the times, and in recognition of the increased competition for everybody's time—minutes as well as hours—we'll present Town Meeting in one-half hour—usually with two speakers—followed by a lively question period which will be about the same length as the present one. We have discussion around the mike. With this new format, we believe we can give you more effective programs, better adapted to this mass medium of communication, and that we'll be able to produce Town Meeting on television when the time comes.

We also invite you, our listeners, to send in your questions, that you may be represented on each program, and we'll use just as many as possible. Address your questions to the Moderator, Town Hall, New York 18, New York.

Our program next week, January 3, will be on the subject "Television 1950—Good or Bad?" Whether you have a television set or not, you certainly know something about this great new medium of communication. This powerful medium will be discussed pro and con by our old friend, Al Capp, creator of *Li'l Abner*, and Norman Cousins, editor of *The Saturday Review of Literature*—two favorite Town Meeting speakers who pull no punches.

The following week, we'll go straight to the dinner tables and ice boxes of every American family with the subject first on the calendar of the United States Senate, "Should the Federal Anti-Margarine Laws Be Abolished?" Senator Fulbright of Arkansas says "Yes." Another Senator will say "No."

The following week, two distinguished members of Congress, Congressman Walter Judd of Minnesota and the second to be announced will discuss the all-important question before the entire world, "Is the Kremlin's Aim the Conquest of the U. S. A.?"

The following week, the program will be on the subject of the President's Civil Rights Program. So plan to be with us next week and every week at the sound of the crier's bell!